



Mail Stop PCT  
Attorney docket no. 26886U  
Attachment A

**ATTACHMENT A**

**CLAIMS:**

**1-21** (cancelled)

22. (new) A rotary sprinkler comprising a rotor with an axle having a tip, and a  
5 thrust bearing with a socket having a bottom, said socket being adapted to receive  
for rotation said axle so that said tip abuts said bottom in a contact zone, wherein  
said sprinkler further comprises a hard element constituting at least a part of said  
bottom including said contact zone, said element being made of harder material  
than said tip.
- 10 23. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said tip is made of plastic.
24. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 23, wherein said rotor with the axle  
and the tip is one integrally molded plastic part.
25. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element has  
polished surface in the contact zone.
- 15 26. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element has  
concave surface in the contact zone.
27. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made  
of industrial sapphire stone.
28. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made  
20 of industrial ruby stone.
29. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made  
of ceramics.
30. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made  
of glass.
- 25 31. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made  
of stainless steel.

32. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is formed as a plate or as a ball.
33. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 32, wherein said hard element is a stainless steel ball locked in the bottom of said socket.
- 5 34. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 33, wherein said tip is concave.
35. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said socket has an inlet opening of diameter D0 and a peripheral wall between said inlet opening and said bottom, said socket being adapted to receive slidably said axle through said inlet opening, wherein said tip has diameter D1 close to D0 while an adjacent portion of
- 10 said axle has diameter  $D2 < D1$ , such that, when said tip abuts said bottom, an open annular gap is formed between said axle and said peripheral wall, and when said tip is aligned with said inlet opening, said inlet opening is essentially closed.
36. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 35, wherein said rotor is adapted to slide, under water flow action, into a position where said tip abuts said bottom, and
- 15 is adapted to slide back, in absence of water flow, into a position where said tip is aligned with said inlet opening.
37. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 36, wherein said sprinkler is adapted to operate with said socket disposed above said rotor.
38. (new) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 35, wherein said tip is formed as one
- 20 of the following: a ball, a cylinder, a cone, a disc, or another body of rotation.
39. (new) A hard element for use in a rotary sprinkler comprising a rotor with an axle having a tip, and a thrust bearing with a socket having a bottom, said socket receiving said axle for rotation so that said tip abuts said bottom, said hard element being formed for fixing in said bottom, being made of harder material than said tip,
- 25 and having a contact surface to meet said tip.
40. (new) The hard element of Claim 39, wherein said contact surface is polished.
41. (new) The hard element of Claim 39, wherein said contact surface is concave.

- 42. (new) The hard element of Claim 39, formed as a plate.
- 43. (new) The hard element of Claim 39, made of industrial sapphire stone.
- 44. (new) The hard element of Claim 39, made of industrial ruby stone.
- 45. (new) The hard element of Claim 39, made of ceramics.
- 5 46. (new) The hard element of Claim 39, made of glass.
- 47. (new) The hard element of Claim 39, made of stainless steel.